



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: October 17, 2001

Contact: Chris Chavez (303) 844-0500

Release Number: 01-51

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news/indexheadline.html>

SBA ANNOUNCES ELTON RINGSAK AS REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today the appointment of Elton W. “Mick” Ringsak as a regional administrator for the SBA, overseeing Region VIII, which includes Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

“Both the agency and Region VIII will benefit greatly from Mick’s entrepreneurial and managerial skills and experience,” said SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto in welcoming Ringsak. “His accomplishments as a small business owner and his commitment to community service will prove an asset in his new role.”

Ringsak added: “I’m looking forward to working with Mr. Barreto and the SBA to strengthen our small businesses and their communities. I intend to continue Mr. Barreto’s policy of listening to small business owners and act on their behalf.”

Region VIII is the most rural region in the nation. With 27 separate tribal nations and more than 500,000 square miles of territory, this region is as diverse as any in the country. In Fiscal 2001, Region VIII district offices approved 2,778 guaranteed loans for more than \$722 million. The regional office serves district offices in Fargo, N. D.; Casper, Wyo.; Sioux Falls, S. D.; Salt Lake City, Utah; Helena Mont., and Denver, Colo.

Ringsak and his brother-in-law have owned and operated Miller’s Boots and Shoes, an 84-year-old family shoe store, for the last two decades. He has been active in many state and community organizations. From 1989 to 2000, he served on the SBA’s Montana State Advisory Council, serving as chairman in 1993-94.

Ringsak has been a Republican activist in Montana for several years, and has been a Republican Precinct Committeeman for 23 years. He assisted the Bush/Cheney Strategy Group in the 2000 presidential campaign.

A decorated Vietnam veteran, Ringsak had a distinguished military career that included tours of duty in Germany and Tunisia as captain in the U.S. Army. He was honorably discharged in 1981 as a major in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Ringsak currently lives in Butte, Mont., with his wife Claire. They have three sons, Quint, a graduate student at Montana State University, Justin, a senior at the University of Montana, and Zach, a sophomore at Butte High School.